

## • Abroad •

**Rome.** A longer-term result of the opening to the Left may be a decentralizing trend that might turn central Italy into a Communist-run Yenan. Communists control the provinces of Umbria, Tuscany and Emilia-Romagna, all of which have been independent of Rome during most of their history since the fall of the Roman Empire. The Left—exactly counter to its doctrine in Indonesia and the Congo, not to mention the Soviet Union—is pressing for greater “provincial autonomy” in order to get a freer hand in these regions, which have in any case been slipping away from the national government.

**Orpington, England.** The Conservatives are much alarmed by the results of last week’s four parliamentary by-elections—Lincoln, Blackpool North, Middlesbrough East and this London suburb. Conservative losses, though normal at this “mid-term” stage, were much deeper than expected, and the two hitherto Conservative seats were lost. The surprise advance, however, was not by Labor but by the Liberal Party, which enormously increased its vote in all four constituencies. At Orpington, the Liberals turned their 21% of the last election into a majority, while Labor dropped low enough to lose its deposit. Some analysts believe the “new middle class,” unattracted by Britain’s stuffy trade unionist socialism and bored with the Tories, is swinging to the Liberals.

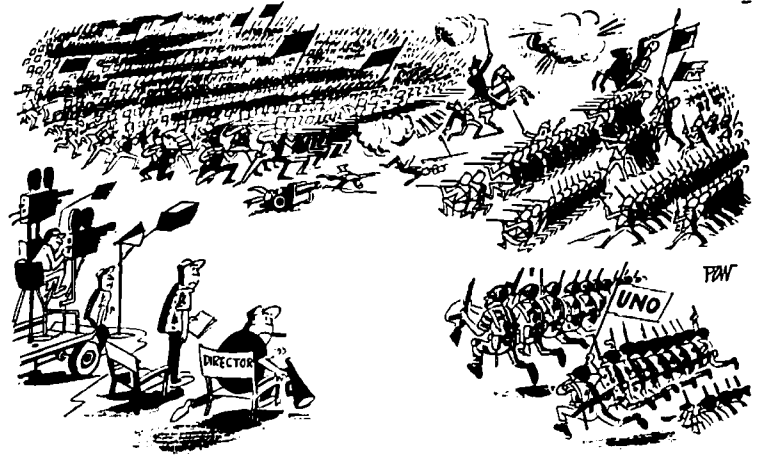
**Geneva, Switzerland.** Last year the International Labor Organization appointed a commission of three distinguished jurists—Mr. Paul Ruggier of Switzerland, former head of the International Red Cross, S. Enrique Armand-Ugon of Uruguay, former judge of the International Court, and Mr. Isaac Horster, president of the Supreme Court of Senegal—to inquire into the charges by Ghana that Portugal was violating the Abolition of Forced Labor Convention in its African territories. No American journal has published the fact that three weeks ago this commission, after a meticulous examination of all evidence, found Ghana’s charges “not substantiated.”

**Geneva.** The decadence of the Western elite and its divorce from the instincts of the general population have been strikingly illustrated by the campaign in connection with the April 1 referendum on a proposal to ban permanently and totally any type of nuclear weapon. All elected officials of all the very democratically organized cantons are *against*. All political parties except the Communist are *against*. But 288 Swiss intellectuals, mostly scientists and ministers, including many of the best known, came out, parallel to the Communists, *for*.

**Ankara.** On the feast of Seker Bayram, which concludes the Moslem holy month of Ramadan, President Gursel issued a message to the nation declaring that “our problems must be solved in tranquillity by moderation and intelligence, under the democratic system.” Just to make sure of the tranquillity, he ratified at the same time a

new law providing prison sentences at hard labor for all persons who criticize the Generals’ Revolution of May 1960, who challenge the death sentences pronounced last year on the leaders of the preceding government, or who suggest any doubt that Turkey can handle a regime of parliamentary democracy.

**Hoylake, England.** The world’s first commercial service of an “air cushion” vehicle will begin this summer. A 24-seat VA3 Supermarine Hovercraft will ferry passengers at 60 mph across the 15-mile width of the Dee estuary from Hoylake to Rhyl, north Wales. This under-twenty-minute journey contrasts with the two hours now required by ordinary ferry or the roundabout auto route.



Punch, Ben Roth

**Copenhagen.** As in Britain, the weight of medical opinion in Denmark has just been publicly thrown behind the conclusion that there is a causal connection between heavy cigarette smoking and lung cancer (as well as other diseases). In both countries there is support for laws that would extend prohibitions on smoking to all public buildings, schools, transport vehicles, etc.; carry on educational campaigns, especially among teenagers, about the dangers of smoking; alter tax laws to penalize cigarettes as against pipes and cigars (proved by the researches to be less dangerous to health); restrict or even abolish advertising of tobacco products, especially of cigarettes. Shares of British cigarette companies have dropped heavily.

**Madrid.** In the last several years a number of moves have been made to further reconciliation between Spanish Christians and the Sephardic Jews who were banished from Spain by King Ferdinand’s edict in 1492. In October 1959, the first open Jewish service in Madrid in 467 years was held in a small synagogue that continues to function. Some of the Sephardic Jews leaving north Africa have been settling in Spain; and about a thousand Jews now live in Madrid. A Madrid institute is compiling a dictionary of the old Spanish tongue that the Sephardic Jews have preserved in exile. A conference earlier this month among several Spanish academicians, Fr. Serrano as representative of the Bishop of Madrid, and the Chief Rabbi of the British and Commonwealth Sephardic Jews, Dr. Solomon Gaon, decided to establish a new Jewish-Christian association in Spain.

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